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TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE.

Monday, February 9, 1835.

EXECUTIVE PATRONAGE.

Substance of Mr. Benton's reply to Mr. Calhoun's Report.

[Concluded.]

Mr. B. then took up the Treasury Report of Mr. Secretary Woodbury, communicated at the commencement of the present session of Congress, containing income and expenditure for the present year, and also for the year 1836. At pages four and five are the estimates for the present year; the income estimated at \$2,000,000; the expenditures at \$19,683,540; being a difference of only some three hundred thousand dollars between the income and the outlay; and such is the chance for nine millions taken out and two left in, the first year of the heads of expense on which diminutions will probably be made, he computes the income and outlay of the year at about equal, or probably a little surplus to the amount of one million. These are the estimates, said Mr. B., formed upon *data*, and coming from an officer making reports upon his responsibility, and for the legislative guidance of Congress; and to which we are bound to give credence until they are shown to be incorrect. Here then are the two first years of the eight disposed of, and nothing found in them to divide; the two last years of term could be despatched even more quickly, said Mr. B., for every body that understands the compromise act of March, 1833, must know, that in the two last years of the operation of that act, there would be an actual *deficit* in the Treasury. Look at the terms of the act! It proceeds by slow and insensible degrees, making slight deductions once in two years, until the years 1841 and 1842, when it ceases crawling, and commences jumping, and leaps down, at two jumps, to twenty per centum on the value of the articles which pay duty, which articles are less than one-half of our importation. Twenty per cent. upon the amount of goods which will then pay duty, will produce but little, say twelve or thirteen millions, upon the basis of sixty or seventy millions of dutiable articles imported then, which only amount to forty-seven millions now. Then there will be no surplus at all for one-half the period of eight years the first two, and the last two. In the middle period of four years there will probably be a surplus of two or three millions; but Mr. B. took issue upon all the allegations with respect to it; as that there was no way to reduce the revenue without disturbing the compromise act of March, 1833; that there was no object of general utility to which it could be applied; and that distribution was the only way to get rid of it.

Equally delusive and profoundly erroneous was the gentleman's idea of the surplus which could be taken out of the appropriations. True that operation could be performed once, and but once. The run of our Treasury payments show that about one quarter of the years expenditure are not paid within the year, but the first quarter of the next year, and thus could be paid out of the revenue received in the first quarter of the next year, even if the revenue of the last quarter of the preceding year was thrown away. But this was a thing which could only be done once. You might rely upon the first quarter, but you could not upon the second, third, and fourth. There would not be a dollar in the Treasury at the end of four years if you deducted a quarter's amount four times successively. It was a case if a homely adage might be allowed, which would well apply—you could not eat the cake and have it too. Mr. B. submitted it then to the Senate, that on the first point of objection to the Report, his issue was maintained. There was no such surplus of nine millions a year for eight years, as had been assumed; nor any thing near it; and this assumption being the corner stone of the whole edifice of the scheme of distribution, it was sufficient to show the fallacy of that data to blow the whole scheme into the empty air.

Mr. B. admonished the Senate to beware of ridicule. To pass a solemn vote for amending the Constitution, for the purpose of enabling Congress to make distribution of surpluses of revenue, and then find no surplus to distribute, might lessen the dignity, and diminish the weight of a grave body. It might expose it to ridicule; and that was a hard thing for public bodies, and public men to stand. The Senate had stood much in its time; much in the latter part of Mr. Monroe's administration, when the Washington Republican habitually denounced it as a faction, and dis-

played many brilliant essays, written by no mean hand, to prove that the epithet was well applied, though applied to a majority. It had stood much also during the four years of the second Mr. Adams's administration; as the surviving pages of the defunct National Journal could still attest; but in all that time it stood clear of ridicule; it did nothing upon which saucy wit could lay its lash. Let it be now! for the passage of this amendment may expose it to untired peril; the peril of song and caricature. And we to the Senate, farewell to its dignity, if it once gets into the windows of the print-shop, and becomes the burthen of the ballads which the milk maids sing to their cows.

2. Mr. B. took up his second head of objection. The Report affirmed that there was no way to reduce the revenue before the end of the year 1842, without violating the terms of the compromise act of March 1833. Mr. B. said he had opposed that act when it was on its passage, and had then stated his objections to it. It was certainly an extraordinary act, a sort of new constitution for nine years, as he had heard it facetiously called. It was made in an unusual manner, not precisely by three men on an island on the coast of Italy, but by two in some room of a boarding house in this city, and then pushed through Congress under a press of sail, and a durese of feeling, under the factitious cry of dissolution of the Union raised by those who had been declaring, on one hand, that the tariff could not be reduced without dissolving the Union, and on the other, that could not be kept up without dissolving the same Union. The value of all such cries, Mr. B. said, would be appreciated in future, when it was seen with how much facility certain persons who had stood under the opposite poles of the earth, as it were, on the subject of the tariff, had come together to compromise their opinions, and to lay the Tariff on the shelf for nine years! a period which covered two presidential elections! That act was no favorite of his, but he would let it alone; and thus leaving to work out its design for nine years, he would say there were ways to reduce the revenue, very sensibly, without affecting the terms, or the spirit of that act. And here he would speak upon *data*. He had the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. Woodbury) to declare that he believed he could reduce the revenue in this way, and upon imports, to the amount of five hundred thousand dollars; and he, Mr. B., should submit a resolution calling upon the Secretary to furnish the detail of this reduction to the Senate at the commencement of their next stated session, that Congress might act upon it. Further Mr. B. would say that it appeared to him that the whole list of articles in the fifth section of the act, amounting to thirty or forty in number, and which by that section are to be free of duty in 1842, and which in his opinion might be made free this day, and that not only without injury to the manufacturers, but with such manifest advantage to them, that as an equivalent for it, and for the sake of obtaining it, they ought to forward of themselves, and make a voluntary concession of reductions on some other points, especially on some classes of woollen goods.

Having given Mr. Woodbury's authority for a reduction of \$500,000 on imports, Mr. B. should show another source from which a much larger reduction could be made, and that without affecting this famous act of March, 1833, in another, add a different quarter; it was in the Western quarter; the new States, the PUBLIC LANDS! The act of 1833 did not embrace this source of revenue and Congress was free to act upon it, and to give the people of the new State the same relief on the purchase of the article on which they chiefly paid revenue as it had done to the old States in the reduction of the Tariff. Mr. B. did not go into the worn out and exploded objections to the reduction of the price of the lands which the Report had gathered up from their old sleeping places, and presented again to the Senate. 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## POETRY.

### [From the Boston Pearl.] EXTRACTS FROM 'LAFAYETTE,' A POEM, BY T. POWELL.

Why is the saddening requin sung,  
Our joys forgot, our harp unstrung?  
Whence ensigns of a nation's woe:  
The courts of God in darkness hung,  
While holy prayer is whispering low?  
Why rolls the organ's solemn note,  
As dim, unearthly visions float,  
Or whisper to the heart oppressed—  
Some spirit seeks its final rest?  
Why prays the death-bell's measured tone,  
As if the sorrowing air would tell  
A blest and worthy soul has flown,  
Forever with its God to dwell?

At nearer onward comes the sound  
When in dark clouds the lightnings play,  
And its low rumbling shakes the ground  
Still gathering terror in its way,  
So sweeps along the frightened air  
The deathlike sounds that publish where  
Is boldly had the hottest fight  
For freeman's home and freeman's right.  
There one extracts the patrio's eyes  
Of foreign tongue and foreign guise;  
Calm yet determined, young but brave;  
Resolved on that fiery day  
For victory, or an honored grave,  
He rushes to the bloody fray  
Fearless of death, and light of heart,  
Yet skillful in his deadly art,  
His daring courage fires his soul  
To place his fame's embazoned roll  
A name, maybe, unseen before,  
When valor traced the record o'er.

Though cold his hope, and dim his eye,  
The dread, the sport of tyrant power,  
One gentle spirit hovers nigh,  
Unshaking in the gloomiest hour.  
There lovely, faithful woman comes  
With words of hope and thoughts of love,  
Amid a dungeon's deepest glooms  
Her firm, devoted faith to prove.  
Patient, enduring, gentle, kind—  
Her generous purpose uncontrolled—  
The mortal beauty of her mind  
Is more than fancy ever told.  
Wife, friend, companion center there,  
When all the world holds good her flower,  
To sooth a prisoner's dark despair—  
His heart her early, holy throne.  
See, bending o'er that saddened brow,  
While kindest thoughts spontaneous rise,  
Her whose pure spirit spurns to bow  
When Austria's chief her prayer denies;  
Returning rather to those walls  
Blessed with affection's beaming eye,  
Than live in luxury's gilded halls,  
Where hope would cease and love would die.

From the Hartson Times.

ISAAC HILL.—It is stated with great apparent exultation in some of the federal papers, that Mr. Hill is not placed on any of the committees of the senate. This great effort on the part of great senators, to cast a slight on one of their body—the representative of one of the states of this Union, cannot injure the man they hate. Why, it may be inquired, is this marked omission? It is not denied that he is abundantly competent, and that he is uncommonly industrious. No member of the senate has discharged his duty with more fidelity, or ability. His integrity, and moral character are irreproachable, and without a blemish—contrasting strongly with the debauchees and gamblers, who have led on the small fry to this petty exhibition of malice. The patriotism of Isaac Hill, and his love of country are proverbial.—His services and firmness in the time of trial, are remembered with gratitude by his fellow citizens. During the last war, he was not like some of the senators, a peace-man; instead of striving to embarrass the government like Webster and others, he devoted his energies to sustain it. On all and every occasion he has been found the firmest among the faithful—uniting in the discharge of his duty—of sleepless vigilance and uncompromising in his principles. What has he ever done while in senate, that the people have not approved? No man in that body has been more devoted to the great cause of civil liberty—no one has exhibited in his whole career a greater regard for the public welfare, or endeavored, by legislating for the whole people, to add more to the sum of human happiness. But it is in charter with the proceedings of that body which could elect such a fellow as Poindexter to preside over its deliberations, to exclude Mr. Hill from its committees, and it cannot mortify him less worth to be discarded, when licentiousness and vice are extolled and promoted.

### THE APPROACHING COMET.

[From the Falmouth (Eng.) Packet.]

Lieut. R. Morrison of the Royal Navy has published a most interesting work upon this magnificent phenomenon, which is expected to be seen in the course this year, 1835, between the months of May and August, in the constellation of *Ursa Major*.—Lieut. Morrison states that it will be more splendid than the one of 1811; some writers affirm that "it will afford a degree of light equal to a full moon, that its tail will extend over 40 degrees," and when the head of the comet reaches the meridian, its tail will sweep the horizon. The author contends that the electric and attractive pow-

ers of the comet will have very serious effects upon our atmosphere, in producing inundations, earthquakes, storms, tempests, volcanic eruptions, and epidemic diseases. In support of the theory he refers to the different appearances of this comet for the last six hundred years—showing that in the comet years these phenomena prevailed to a great extent. The author says:

"Relying on the corrections of our principle of cometary influence, we venture to predict that the summer of 1835 will be remarkable for intense heat, which may be expected to destroy the harvests in some parts of the world. That year will be noted for earthquakes and volcanoes, and other similar phenomena. The end of 1835, or early in 1836, may be noted to be remarkable for some one or more extensive earth-quakes. The winters of 1836 or 1837, will bring a frost, such as has not been equal for at least 20 years. The parts of the earth which we anticipate will suffer most, are those situated to the North of Asia, and some parts of the southern hemisphere, such as China. Those parts of the earth in the vicinity of volcanoes are always subject to the electrical phenomena of earth-quakes, because the frequent internal changes which the combustion creates, must necessarily produce a derangement of electricity. And if while the comet is near the earth overcharged with electricity, there be any internal cavity of the earth deficient of that fluid, it will rush into the earth at that spot. This we take to have been the case in 1456, near Naples, when the sudden rending of the earth destroyed 40,000 human beings."

The noble and patriotic conduct of the Whig majority of the U. S. Senate, is thus summed up in the Globe:—"They have left the Fourth Circuit without a Judge, deprived the President of the power to send a Minister to England, lost the Fortification Bill, and refused to put the country in a state of defence, in case France should make war upon our commerce, navy, or coast."

Surely such worthy acts will not be suffered to go unrewarded.—[Age.]

A man observing another reeling about the streets, asked a bystander if he thought that was an actor? "No," replied the other, "I think he is a fugitive."

How much pain those evils cost us which never happened.

Take things always by their smooth handle.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the third day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

ON the petition of THOMAS J. HOWARD administrator of the estate of MARTIN BRADFORD late of Turner, in said county, deceased, representing that the personal estate of said deceased is not sufficient to pay the just debts which he owed at the time of his death by sum of one hundred and sixty-nine dollars, and that by a partial sale of the real estate the residue would be greatly injured, and praying for a license to sell and convey the whole of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of said debts and incidental charges:

Ordered,

That the petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county, on the second Tuesday of April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

\* Copy Attest: JOSPH G. COLE, Register.

At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the third day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

ON the petition of THOMAS J. HOWARD administrator of the estate of MARTIN BRADFORD late of Turner, in said county, deceased, representing that the personal estate of said deceased is not sufficient to pay the just debts which he owed at the time of his death by sum of one hundred and sixty-nine dollars, and that by a partial sale of the real estate the residue would be greatly injured, and praying for a license to sell and convey the whole of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of said debts and incidental charges:

Ordered,

That the petitioner give notice thereof to the heirs of said deceased and to all persons interested in said estate, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, in said county, three weeks successively, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county, on the second Tuesday of April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

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At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the third day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

ON the petition of H. H. BODD BENSON, Administrator of the estate of H. H. BODD BENSON, late of Lawrence, in said county, deceased, representing that the personal estate of said deceased is not sufficient to pay the just debts which he owed at the time of his death by sum of one hundred and eighty dollars, and that by a partial sale of the real estate the residue would be greatly injured, and praying for a license to sell and convey the whole of the real estate of said deceased for the payment of said debts and incidental charges:

Ordered,

That the petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, in said county, three weeks successively, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county, on the second Tuesday of April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

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At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the third day of March, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

ON the petition of GIDEON CUSHMAN Jr named Executor in a certain instrument purporting to be the last Will and Testament of CALEB CUSHMAN, late of Hebron, in said county, deceased, having presented the same for probate:

Ordered,

That the said Gideon give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, in said county, three weeks successively, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county, on the second Tuesday of April next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

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